

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the sentence that begins of page 21, line 19 with the following amended sentence:

Located on each side of the central panel are storage compartment access doors 8.

Please replace the Abstract of the instant application with the following:

An interactive automated article dispensing system and method for dispensing articles to a plurality of users that has at least one dispensing device including: a) a plurality of storage compartments configured for storage of a vertical stack of cloth articles, said storage compartments arranged in a plurality of tiers, b) a plurality of cloth articles deployed in at least some of said storage compartments in vertical stack configurations, c) at least one dispensing outlet, d) an article delivery system configured to retrieve a top-most article from at least one said stack and deliver said article to said dispensing outlet, said article delivery system including a plurality of article retrieval systems equal in number to the number of tiers of said storage compartments, e) a user interface unit accessible to the users and f) an on-board processing unit configured to control said article delivery system, said on-board processing unit being in electrical communication with said article delivery system, and said user interface unit. The system also includes an article return device and a user credit tracking system for tracking a number of said articles a user is currently authorized to have dispensed, such that on receipt of a request to dispense an article entered by a user via the user interface, and conditional at least upon the user having a current credit of at least one, the article delivery system is actuated to deliver a requested article to said dispensing outlet and the current credit of the user is

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decreased by one, and on return of an article to the article return system, the current credit of the user is increased by one.